(c) whether additional infrastructure and facilities, like construction of a new terminal building, second runway, etc. have been carried out to meet the growing passenger traffic at the Mangalore Airport, thereby meeting the requirements of an international airport;

(d) if so, whether the Centre would consider upgrading Mangalore Airport into an international; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Upgradation of an airport into International airport is considered from time to time based on various factors such as projection of requirements by airlines, availability of land, customs, immigration, plant and quarantine facilities etc. Recently Airports at Jaipur and Calicut have been declared as International airports.

(c) A new runway of dimension 2450m x 45m for operation of AB-310-300 class of aircraft has already been constructed at Mangalore airport. There are plans to construct a new integrated terminal building complex with all modern facilities for handling 500 passengers at a time. Action can be considered only when and if required additional land is handed over by the State Government of Karnataka to AAI. AAI has taken up renovation/ modification of the existing terminal building and initiated action for providing space for customs & immigration there.

(d) and (e) On completion of above works and when all relevant requirements are met, the Ministry of Civil Aviation will examine whether to upgrade Mangalore Airport to an International Airport.

Installation of Landing Instruments at Airports

85. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that each year during monsoon and winter, flight operation becomes difficult, resulting in severe disruption in schedule of almost every flight leading to chaos at the airports;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that appropriate equipment to guide the aircraft during such season is unavailable in most of the airports; and

(d) if so, by when such equipments would be installed in all the airports, with special reference to Mangalore Airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Due to bad weather and poor visibility, flight operations are disrupted at times in monsoon and winter seasons. The extend of disruption varies from airport to airport depending on the weather conditions.

(c) and (d) Instrument Landing System (ILS) has already been provided requirement-wise at 38 airports including the four Metro airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata to cater to low visibility exigencies arising out of rain and fog. Action is underway to provide new ILS at Lilabari, Silchar, Kolkata, Gaya and replacement of existing ILS at Kolkata, Delhi and Cochin. At Mangalore airport, ILS has already been installed. Promulgation of the same is contingent on completion of flight trials, nominated check points, evaluation of letdown procedure and approval by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

Enhancement of flying hours of pilots

86. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any move to increase the annual limit of 1000 flying hours for pilots;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that proposed move will be dangerous as it would put more stress on pilots; and

(d) if so, the final decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Air service between Bagdogra and Kathmandu

†87. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.